



MINUTES

**FORT MYERS BEACH TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2523 ESTERO BOULEVARD
FORT MYERS BEACH, FLORIDA 33931**

WORKSESSION

Monday January 3, 2011

2:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kiker called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. Present with Mayor Kiker, Vice Mayor Raymond, Council members List, Mandel and Babcock along with Town Manager Stewart and Town Clerk Michelle Mayher.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance

III. DISCUSSION ON TOWN AGENDA ITEMS

For the Joint Town Council/BOCC meeting January 25, 2011

- A. Estero Boulevard
- B. Public Transportation
- C. Transfer of County Properties

Supporting materials were being copied for item A., so Council began discussion with item B.

B. Public Transportation

Town Manager Stewart referenced the Council decision not to enter into the interlocal agreement with the county for additional trolley service, and the letter from Commissioner Judah to each Council member.

Town Manager Stewart opined he did not feel the town should have to pay the additional funds, rather the county should be responsible for providing the service.

Vice Mayor Raymond requested statistics on the bed tax and sales tax generated by the island for the County. With the purchase of the property known as Seafarer's, the county is encouraging even more visitors to the beach. Therefore, it was time the county started to provide more assistance in taking care of those people's needs.

Councilmember List felt the formulas used by the state regarding the distribution of taxes needed attention, noting the town should not have to pay the additional amount, the trolleys should run later into the evening.

Councilmember Babcock felt it was important to see the facts regarding the bed and sales taxes generated on the island but definitely the use of the gas tax, questioning the use of TDC funds.

Councilmember Mandel asked if there didn't need to be an end vision, connecting all 3 issues.

Vice Mayor Raymond continued his thoughts by addressing the mismanagement of Lee Tran regarding the trolleys, the connection with San Carlos Island and the need for the county to start addressing their responsibilities.

Mayor Kiker did not agree with the Town paying for this service since the problem was around before the town was incorporated and congestion reverted back once again to work on Estero Boulevard.

Councilmember Mandel felt there needed to be a re appropriation of funds and that the county should assist the town in dealing with the state for better allocating of funds.

Discussion continued regarding the town's priorities and its standings in the county and state's budget funding. Town Manager Stewart stated the additional trolley service was the core responsibility of the county, with a suggestion to pose that question to the county to hear their views.

Council members List and Babcock stressed the need for the requests to come across in a positive rather than a negative way. Mayor Kiker felt the need to remind the BOCC that the town did not want the county to lose track of what had been promised regarding the 5 year CIP.

Recess: 3:20 p.m. Reconvene: 3:30 p.m.

B. ESTERO BOULEVARD

Council began discussion with a review of what had been promised in past meetings regarding Estero Boulevard.

Mayor Kiker suggested telling the county that the town would take over the Estero Boulevard project, allow the county to fund the project at approximately \$6 million a mile with the town managing the project. Councilmember Mandel felt that there was definitely an argument to show the town could do the project for less than the county.

Councilmember Babcock stated he was not comfortable with the concept of taking over Estero Boulevard until it was in the shape he would like to see. Discussion continued including the right of way study, storm water management, water utility and time lines.

Town Manager Stewart indicated that the town was not privy to the county's decision to exclude the town from the CIP for 5 to 6 years, due to the fact that it was a difficult project to deal with and not knowing how to approach it. Mr. Stewart could request county staff's criteria for ranking road projects.

Mayor Kiker suggested Town Manager Stewart provide a scenario showing engineering, ability and funding, with Councilmember Mandel asking Town Manager Stewart to use the county's numbers, then offer the county a deal showing that the town could do it for less, saving the county money.

Council continued to discuss their opinions on how to address the Estero Boulevard project during the BOCC meeting; Town Manager Stewart reminded Council that the document at hand defined the money available to the county over the next several years and where they decided to place the funds. If Council wanted them to move the project sooner then they would have to convince the BOCC to change their priorities.

Councilmember List asked for a copy of the county's master plan for road resurfacing and beautification.

Councilmember Babcock indicated his desire to fore go funds for short term projects to fund the beginning of the long term Estero Boulevard project.

C. TRANSFER OF COUNTY PROPERTIES

Councilmember Mandel presented his thoughts on the county owned beach properties, looking at the numbers and providing the BOCC with an alternative showing them how the town could save them money by turning the county's properties over to the town, including parks, roads, beach accesses and Seafarers.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

There was discussion that often times the LPA hears items that come forward from other advisory committees, and therefore there may be conflicts, and so asked Town Manager Stewart to place the item on agenda management for future discussion.

Council discussed what items to place on the February 7 worksession agenda.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Adopted _____ With/Without changes. Motion by _____

Vote: _____

Michelle D. Mayher, Town Clerk

- End of document.